

REMARKS

Claims 20-26, 29, 32-36, 40, and 41 are all of the pending claims, with claim 20 being written in independent form. By virtue of this Amendment, Applicants (1) amend claim 20 to correct typographical errors, and (2) cancel claims 38 and 39 without prejudice or disclaimer.

I. Allowable Subject Matter:

On page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner allows claims 20-26, 29, 32-36, 40, and 41.

II. Claim Rejection on Prior Art Grounds:

The Examiner rejects claims 38 and 39 under 35 USC §103(a) as being obvious over US 4,409,740 to Sousek in view of US 5,436,195 to Kimura et al. and US 5,233,763 to Minnie, Jr. As a path of least resistance, and without acquiescing to the correctness of the Examiner's rejection position, Applicants cancel claims 38 and 39.

CONCLUSION

For at least the reasons discussed above, Applicants earnestly solicit reconsideration and allowance of all of the pending claims.

The Commissioner is authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-4446 for any additional fees required under 37 CFR § 1.16 or under 37 CFR § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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